United Nations A/67/717–S/2013/67

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 30 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the following:

On Tuesday, 29 January 2013, a group of Nusrah Front terrorists perpetrated a new massacre in Aleppo, carrying out in cold blood the mass execution of scores of innocent Syrian civilians they had abducted and throwing the bodies of the victims into the Quwayq river in the Bustan al-Qasr area of Aleppo. While the pertinent parties, in cooperation with the families, are still trying to establish the facts with regard to the new massacre of innocent civilians, all the indications are that the bodies of the victims were found in an area in which terrorists are active, in a shallow part of the Quwayq river that is separated by a barbed-wire fence from Syrian Arab Army positions in the Bustan al-Qasr area, around the edges of which clashes take place between those armed terrorist gangs and Syrian Army personnel stationed in the vicinity. It is worth mentioning the comment that was made by one of the terrorists who was arrested by the law enforcement forces, to the effect that the terrorists were committing their crimes before any meetings of the Security Council or action relating to Syria, in order to stir up local and international public opinion against Syria.

Several families in the area reported that they recognized the bodies of relatives that were shown on the television channels that are colluding in the shedding of Syrian blood with the claim that they were those of civilians. As usual, the Syrian Arab Army was accused of having perpetrated the massacre. The families affirmed that the bodies were those of relatives who had been abducted by the terrorists, who had previously contacted them on several occasions, demanding the payment of ransoms for them. The families said that their relatives had been abducted because they had refused to have anything to do with the terrorist Nusrah Front, and had asked it to leave their residential areas. The pertinent parties and the families are continuing to try to establish the identity of the victims of this new

Please recycle

massacre by those terrorist groups, the latest in a series of brutal massacres of peaceful and defenceless civilians carried out by this terrorist organization.

The Syrian Arab Republic, while conveying to the Security Council the facts about this frightful massacre, renews its demand that the Council should assume its responsibility and issue a clear and unequivocal condemnation of these terrorist acts, which target innocent civilians, and condemn those who perpetrate them and those who provide the perpetrators with support in the form of money, materiel, training, shelter and political and media cover and encourage them to continue their crimes, which target civilian citizens, and attempt to undermine the stability of the Syrian State. Syria requests the international community to make a genuine commitment to fight terrorism and those who support it, pursuant to the provisions of the relevant counter-terrorism-related Security Council resolutions, foremost among which is resolution 1373 (2001). Once again, Syria notes that failure to implement those resolutions and the employment of double standards in dealing with them brings into question the credibility of the Security Council in fighting this perilous scourge, which is a threat to every country in the world.

Finally, the Syrian Arab Republic notes that when certain Security Council members obstruct the issuance by the Council of a clear condemnation, as has happened on previous occasions, the terrorists are given political cover that encourages them to commit more of these terrorist outrages. Syria therefore requests the States that are hindering the Council from carrying out its duties, mandate and responsibilities in this field to retreat from that position, which does not serve global security, peace or counter-terrorism efforts.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic